

VIA AIR  
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DISPATCH NO. MAVA-1110

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SECURITY INFORMATION  
CLASSIFICATION

TO Chief, EE 84 April 1952  
FROM Chief of Station, Vienna EE  
SUBJECT: General Operational  
Specific: Ernest J. VAUGHN, Possible Fabricator

Reference: MAVA-8478, MAVA-7670

1. Ernest J. VAUGHN, formerly WOMAN, formerly WOMAN, an Austrian-born U.S. journalist on whom a lengthy evaluation can be found in references, has expressed a desire to work for U.S. intelligence to G-2 USA. He submitted a report (attached) on Communist communications in Germany, which G-2 sent to EUCOM for evaluation. EUCOM replied by sending a US report (also attached) obviously based on the same material. EUCOM also stated that many G-2 reports on Communist courier routes and arms smuggling had proved to be unfounded.

2. G-2 is trying to determine Subject's subsources and has asked us whether he has any connections with our organization. We would therefore appreciate being informed as soon as whether VAUGHN has become involved with us in any way since June 1951, the date of the last Vienna communication on him.

Distribution:

- 2 FM w/atts:
- 1 Chrono
- 1 G-2 USA
- 1 VAUGHN: 2004(US)

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION: 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

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03 OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY: Western Germany DATE DISSEM: 25 June 1951  
SUBJECT: Communist Communications Centers in Western Germany  
DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE: 14 June 1951 DATE OF INFO: Prior 14 Jun 51  
STATION: F-3

1. A certain refugee now residing in the U.S. has developed a network of sources throughout Europe. He has collected points in Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Turkey and the U.S. and through these points of information is channelled to him. The following information came to him from a point in Western Germany. The original source of this information is unknown, due to use of sub-sources, an "X" gratuity is given to source.

2. A steady flow of secret Communist instructions, propaganda material, intelligence information, as well as occasional shipments of arms coming from Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia and destined for Western Germany and other Western European countries is being channelled through the hands of a network of Communist agents and contacts who have one of their headquarters in Kemten, in the American Zone of Germany. This secret Communist communications center between East and West was set up and is being protected with the help of a number of active members of the Communist Party in Western Germany who succeeded in securing positions within the State Police of that town. According to information further branch centers are functioning under similar conditions in Pralissine, border station towards Austria at Grafenwohr, where the largest U.S. military training grounds are located and at Furth in Walde, near the East German and Czechoslovak borders.

3. The Communist communication center in Kemten is located in the apartment of a Mrs. Keller at 39/41 Westenstrasse. This center has direct connections on one hand with a branch office in Munich and on the other hand with Sanitaire Suisse in Switzerland, both links in the underground East-West Communist communication channel. Frau Keller is about 35 years old and lives with her 10 year old son in the mentioned apartment. She is a former employee of the Bavarian Red Cross and visited Switzerland frequently during the past years while accompanying recreational children's transport to that country. She quit her job about a year ago and claims now to be the local advertising agent of the "Swiss Journal" published in Zurich. In this capacity she has a permanent passport and Swiss visa but, according to her own admission, she doesn't receive any salary or commission from that paper. Consequently her only income would be the 175 Marks of widow's pension per month she receives. Despite that, she could afford to buy a Volkswagen car (Be Type, export model) about a year ago (Registration No. 17 177 467) for 8,000 Marks.

4. Mrs. Keller's apartment is continuously visited by people from all over Western Germany, as well as from Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium and Holland. In February, returning from one of her regular trips to Switzerland,

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Frau Keller arrived with a Swiss man named De Barry who makes frequent trips to the Soviet Zone. De Barry lived during his stay in Kempton in the apartment of a Frau Stertale, who is carried on the records of the American G-2 as a Communist agent. De Barry moved later to Munich where he took up contact with a Monsieur Cordiers, an employee of the Institute Francais.

14. Among the regular subject men cooperating with the Kempton headquarters are a certain Franz Peter Komol, who lives at Gerolts, near Kempton, and a Dr. Ratter, both connected with the "Robert Lercher" publishing house in Munich. During World War II the German Military Security Department in Prague carried Dr. Ratter as a known Communist agent. These two agents are in close contact with other collaborators in Munich: Walter Steinberger from the Bavarian State Department for Refugees and Dr. Ulrich, working with the Bavarian Red Cross.

15. The courier route of the Communists between East and West, via Switzerland, Eastern Germany-Czechoslovakia, operates as follows: From Switzerland the material comes to Frau Keller in Kempton, from where Komol forwards it to Walter in Munich, who brings it personally to Furtth in the hands of the bookshop "Sagner". It is to be noted that this bookshop receives all East German newspapers, as well as Soviet zone or pseudo-patriotic magazines and the parcels received from East Germany and Czechoslovakia are never controlled either by the East German and Czechoslovakian nor by the competent West German officials. The Communist connections with the West German Frontier Police is the local commander, Maschke, thus Sagner has no difficulty in smuggling agents or goods to the Soviet Zone or to Czechoslovakia. Maschke is in turn cooperating with West Zoukup, the Czechoslovak frontier guard, who acts in many cases as personal escort for border-crossing Communist couriers and agents disguised as refugees. The communication route reversed is similar with the only exception that instead of Frau Keller, Otto Kriech, a newspaper editor, received the "material" which is to be forwarded to the West. Kriech was a known Communist in Prague and in the Austroland before World War II. He vanished during the Nazi period and was at one time in Finland. His name figured in the trial against the Sudetengerman Henlein movement. He was arrested in 1938 and was in a concentration camp up to 1945. After World War II he appeared on the staff of Marshal Zickow and was one of the persons in charge of the expulsion of Sudetengermans from Czechoslovakia. Entrusted with similar duties like Kriech are the mathematics professor Emil Pauker, who maintains contacts with France, and the journalist Krauss who lives in the Leudingerstrasse in Kempton. The latter is a correspondent of the Northern Bohemian paper "Stara Severova" and claims also to be the representative of UP, which, however, was proved to be untrue.

16. Another communication route towards the North operates via Furtth in Halle-Munberg-Frankfurt and Dortmund which serves the industrial centers of the Ruhr and the Saar, as well as the Benelux countries. A second Communist branch office in Kempton operates in the apartment of the former German "Luftwaffe" General Ucker, who owns two small tobacco shops in Kempton and Lindau; the

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# COMMUNIST COURIERS TRAVEL FREELY FROM WEST TO EAST GERMANY

by Ernest T. Vaughn

7 Lines

The Communist Party of Germany has a number of courier connections from Western Germany partly directly to Eastern Germany partly through Switzerland to Czechoslovakia. One of their centers is located in Kempten. Trained Communists have become officers of the political police in Kempten during the last two years although they are not membership card carrying KPD officials. Similar cases can be proven in other German cities like Pilsen, Grafenwoehr and Furth in Valde. This correspondence can reveal for the first time how this courier service is working and name names of people connected with it. There is one Franz Peter Kuenzel, by occupation a writer who lives in Gerdards near Kempten. His books are published by the Universality Book House Robert Koenig in Munich, but he has to pay the bill. He succeeded in being received in conservative circles in Kempten where he is trying to convince intellectuals in favor of Communism. On the other hand, his connection to a Communist center of agents, located at Mrs. Edeltraud Keller, Westendstrasse 39/II in Kempten, Allgau, is well-known. Mrs. Keller, about 35 years old, has a four-room apartment at the above-mentioned address where she is living with her two years old son.

About a year ago she bought an automobile, the so-called Volkswagen, for DM 9,000.00 (\$2,000.00) that can be seen in Kempten with plate number AB 177-467. Mrs. Keller having been connected with the Bavarian Red Cross, had an opportunity to travel several times to Switzerland with children transports. She left the Red Cross about a year ago and allegedly is working as advertising agent for "Swiss Journal" and "Zurich" magazine. On the strength of that connection she obtained a passport enabling her frequent trips to Zurich. As far as could be ascertained she received neither salary nor commission and is living according to her own disposition on a small widow's pension in the amount of DM 175.00 (\$44.00) monthly. The question remains wherefrom she got DM 9,000.00 to buy an automobile.

People from the whole Western German territory, as well as from Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium and Holland have been seen frequently coming to and leaving her apartment. She has connections to the State Secretary for Refugee Affairs where her liaison is one Mr. Steinberger, while one Dr. Ulrich is her liaison man to the Bavarian Red Cross. Returning from another trip to Switzerland on February 3, Mrs. Keller was accompanied by one Mr. De Barry who is making regular trips to Eastern Germany. Mr. De Barry is residing with Mrs. Strelle in Kempten who is said to be known with the CIO as agent for the Eastern press. A month or two later, Mr. De Barry left for Munich where he contacted one Mr. Cordiers of the Institute Francais in Munich.

The above-mentioned Munich publishing company Lerche has another interesting employee, namely one Dr. Reiter who during the last war was known as a Communist at the Nazi counter espionage section in Prague. Dr. Reiter is also active as a liaison man for courier dispatches for the Communists.

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It has been learned that the (Free German) youth has been provided with weapons. Transports of new rifles via Yugoslavia are sent to Eastprussia where the Keller is taking care of everything. Others are going via North in order to purchase, Frankfurt and Dortmund. It is not the first time that arms are sent from Westphalia to Germany. It could be ascertained that already in summer 1940 a transport for the well-known steel and iron works Krupp was sent from Dortmund via Dortmund to Holland. In Dortmund the Communist officers were sent transit via Dortmund to Holland. Similarly all transports of weapons were exchanged and the arms remained in Germany. Similarly all transports were routed transit via Southern Germany to Switzerland and brought back from there. That's how Communists are working in reality in spite of the propaganda of peace demonstrations. ▲

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